







## EGYPTIAN SUPERSTITIONS.

The following stories from "The Overland Monthly" are interesting, first because they illustrate the cast of mind common to the Nila Valley, and secondly, because they are told by an "enraptured" Egyptian, Hajji Michael, on whom the light of modern science has been reflected.

## FROM ONE GALLows TO ANOTHER THE GREAT ALLAH WILL REDEEM.

Once upon a time, long ago, the Governor of Moudir of Assuan condemned a murderer to be hanged. There were seven gallows in the court, numbered for the seven days of the week.

Sunday is the first day of the week and Friday the Sabbath, according to Mohammanid faith. Moral superstition has decreed that the unkind days are Monday and Wednesday. It has been a long-established custom in the land of the lotus, the crocodile, sacred hippopotami, and the like, to grant a murderer three favors previous to execution of sentence.

The Monir sentenced the murderer to hang on gallows number two, the execution thus falling on an unlucky day. The murderer requested as a favor that he be hanged on gallows number six, and the gracious Moudir granted the condemned man's request, and asked why he made such a strange one.

"Why," replied the man, "do you not know the proverb, 'from one gallows to another, the great Allah will redeem'?"

And so, through the murderer's quiet wit, he was saved: the Governor pardoned him for the sake of the great Allah, the day of execution falling on Friday or the Sabbath.

Thus it is shown that superstition once saved a man's life.

## THE UNKNOWN FACE.

Sultan Mourad Bey, at a good Mohammanid, made it his custom to ride to the mosque every Friday. A gayly caparisoned troop of cavalry attended his bodyguard. The people, looking to the windows, and hung out their prettiest rugs and their most gaudy streamers. The children were gathered in their best, and along the whole line of the street was in grand holiday attire. From minute and from latituded window smiling faces were turned toward Sultan Mourad, the Mameluke, and his company.

One Friday, on a balcony, sat a Turk looking at the parade. At his side was his ebony. The balcony was rich in color, and rare rugs and tapestries hung from it. This Turk had a very large nose. The Sultan was attracted by this peculiarity, and, as the Turk retired from the balcony, he turned to get another look at the big-nosed man.

This unlucky accident wounded the Sultan Mourad's pride, and in his surprise he deemed the Turk the cause of it. He immediately gave in order to have the man hanged.

Previous to execution of the sentence, as is the custom, the big-nosed Turk was asked if he had any request to make.

The Turk cried bitterly, and demanded of his guards upon what ground he was to be so cruelly dealt with. The soldiers told him that it was by order of the Sultan.

"Let me talk with the Sultan," said the Turk.

"I do not understand this at all. I decorate my balcony with my best stuffs, and dress myself in my most gorgeous costume, all in honor of our Sultan; and now, oh! woe is me, I am to hang."

Waiting and bemoaning his hard fate, the big-nosed Turk was escorted to the Palace. After conferring with the general, he who pulls the rope, the Turk was admitted to the audience chamber.

The hangman explained to the Sultan that the Turk wanted to know the reason for his hanging.

From behind portières of rich texture came the proud voice of Sultan Mourad in answer to the gallid's explanation.

"I have no desire to look upon this man's face again. You will repeat this to him. To-day in going to the mosque I saw his most unlucky face, and my turban fell into the street. The face carries misfortune to all beholders, hence have I condemned him to death."

The Turk, who had been weeping and weeping all the way, now began to laugh. He laughed loud and long, and he cried: "Allah, Allah, don't judge!" which means, "O God, O God, what a wonderful world it is!"

The Turk said to the Sultan, who still hidden behind the curtains, had been much astounded at his laughter:

"Your Highness, may Allah prolong your life, may you have much joy and happiness. You told your servant I had no such face, and that for this reason your Highness' turban fell off the street.

And for this I am to hang. Pardon me, your Highness, for what I am about to say. Your Highness has my face, and your turban fell off. I saw your Highness' face, and I am condemned to hang! Now, tell me, which of us owns the unluckiest face?"

The Sultan laughed; he admired the man's talk and his diplomacy. He marveled at his argument, and the gallid was instructed to say to the big-nosed that he was forgiven, but on one condition. He was not to look through the windows, nor was he to sit on that balcony again.

The Turk went home radiant and happy. He removed the balcony, he barred the windows with thick boards, leaving not a chink or hole to look through, fearing that he might be tempted to look at the Sultan again. The big-nosed man thus saved his life by his diplomacy.

## HAYRICK.

"Can't you fix this splice so that neither of us get a divorce?" Person: "You can make a contract to that effect if you wish." Hayrict: "That's all; draw up articles that this is to be a light to a finish."

## CLARK'S WORLD-TAKEN BLOOD MIXTURE.

The most searching Blood Cleanser that science and medical skill have brought to light. Substances from Scrofula, Tuber, Eczeina, Bone, Skin and Blood Disease, Fine Ointments, any kind of sore, and a great deal to test its value. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Sold everywhere at 2s. 6d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

Young wife (at telephone): "Is that the telephone exchange?" "I want to talk with Cyrus Winterbottom." "Um, my wife, and Telephone." "Cyrus." "Number?" Young wife: "Number? I'm his first and only, you insatiable creature."

The Health and Vigor of an individual depend upon the quantity and quality of the Blood. When the tissues have been at work, there are thrown into the blood waste products, and if these be not eliminated but through any means, retained in the blood they increase in volume and function and finally produce organic disease. —The following are the effects of Scrofula, Tuber, Eczeina, Bone, Skin and Blood Disease. Simple and forms of all kinds, the effects of Clark's Blood Mixture are marvellous. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Clark's Blood Mixture is sold every where at 2s. 6d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

## DO THOU LKWEWINE.

When one sets a candle in a window on a dark night he can tell how many lost and bewildered travellers it may guide on their way. I once knew a dear old lady who habitually did it on every dark night. The road that passed her house was always, narrow, and dark enough, and houses were scarce. So, in the general gloom of a night of projecting window, where it could shine both ways and do the most good. She is dead and gone now, but let us hope that her family keeps up the custom. To be sure it brought her many a strange guest, yet did she care for them, and never grumbled.

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## Mails.

## Occidental &amp; Oriental Steamship Company.

TAKING CARGO AND PASSENGERS TO JAPAN, THE UNITED STATES, MEXICO, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, AND EUROPE, VIA THE OVERLAND RAILWAYS, AND ATLANTIC & OTHER CONNECTING STEAMERS.

PIA INLAND SEA OF JAPAN AND HONOLULU.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

Goto (via Nagasaki), WEDNESDAY, Nov. 21, 1894; Inland Sea and Yachimura, at daylight.

Kobe (via Nagasaki), WEDNESDAY, Dec. 12, 1894; at daylight.

Yokohama (via Nagasaki), WEDNESDAY, Jan. 9, 1895; at daylight.

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